

Date Mailed December 7, 19999

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Petition of Customers of the Town of Oakland for Transfer to the
Superior Exchange

5530-TV-104

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING, INVESTIGATION,
ASSESSMENT OF COSTS AND
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

Comments Due: December 22, 1999 – Noon	Address Comments To: Scot Cullen, Administrator Telecommunications Division Public Service Commission P.O. Box 7854 Madison, WI 53707-7854 FAX (608) 266-3957
FAX Due: December 21, 1999 – Noon	

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO investigate the petition of certain customers of the Town of Oakland, Douglas County, for transfer from the Bennett exchange of CenturyTel of Northwest Wisconsin, Inc., to the Superior exchange of CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, Inc.

On September 2, 1999, the Commission received a petition signed by at least 35 customers of the Bennett exchange who reside in the Town of Oakland. Two additional petitioners reside in the Bennett exchange but receive Superior exchange service via cross-boundary foreign exchange service. A map was included to show the area the petitioners would like to have moved from the Bennett exchange to the Superior exchange.

The petition states that Superior is the community of interest for the petitioners. Town offices, the school district, hospitals, fire department, places of employment, and family and friends are all located in the Superior exchange. The cover letter accompanying the petition states that “We are the only residents in the Superior school district that have to pay \$.05 per minute for our children to call their friends. As I am sure you know, it is very important for our children to keep in touch with their friends, especially when living in a rural area and living some distance away from each other.”

Local calling for the Bennett exchange includes extended area service to the Solon Springs and Gordon exchanges and extended community calling to the exchanges of Superior, Poplar, Maple, and Lake Nebagamon. The petitioners’ area is separated from the rest

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of the Bennett exchange by county forest land; it appears that a gap of at least two miles separates the petitioners from the nearest customer in the remaining portion of the exchange.

The Commission will investigate this matter as a formal complaint under Wis. Stat. § 196.28.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission invites comments on whether this petition should be dismissed or whether sufficient grounds exist to warrant a hearing. Comments are due at the Commission **by noon on December 22, 1999**. Parties submitting comments by fax must do so by **noon on December 21, 1999**. **An original and five copies** of the comments should be addressed as shown in the box on page 1 and must refer to the docket number. (Individuals filing comments need only file an original.) Fax filing cover sheets must state 'Official Filing,' the docket number, and number of pages (limit 20 pages). File by **one mode only**.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of CenturyTel of Northwest Wisconsin, Inc. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from CenturyTel of Northwest Wisconsin, Inc., in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator Thomas A. Gross at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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